

USSN: 09/995,009
Group Art Unit: 3726
Docket No.: 127P67USC1

Remarks

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated November 19, 2003. Therefore, a response is due on or before February 19, 2004.

Applicant would like to affirm the election made on June 18, 2002. Applicant hereby elects to prosecute the invention of Group II, namely claims 7 and 8.

Claims 7 and 8 were objected to for the informality in claim 7. Specifically, the word "an" has been inserted before "irrigation". This amendment is being made as a matter of form and is not directed towards the patentability of the invention.

The Examiner has rejected claims 7 and 8 as being anticipated by the McNeill patent. The Examiner indicates that McNeill discloses a method of making a hook and irrigation hose assembly wherein a plurality of hooks are secured at spaced intervals on an irrigation hose by an automated process. The hooks and hose being coiled and able to be shipped from a sight for subsequent installation by clipping the hooks to a wire. As will be discussed more fully hereafter, the present invention is distinguishable over the cited reference. In addition, Applicant has amended the claims to further distinguish over the cited reference.

The McNeill patent discloses the use of clips that are integral with the hose. That is, the clips are extruded with the hose. Further, the line is optionally also extruded at the same time. This provides for a more complex and difficult extrusion. A number of different dies will be needed to form different diameter hoses or if different clips are to be used.

With the present invention, the clips are discrete from the hose. Therefore, the hose is manufactured separately from the clips, thereby simplifying the extrusion process. The clips have an opening that is spread apart as the clip is placed around the hose. Then, when the clip is released, the clip would return so that the opening would become smaller and the clip would be secured to the hose. This process allows for the hose to be secured at different intervals. If the clips are extruded with the hose, as in McNeill, the clips cannot be moved. Further, the clips are able to be moved sideways along the hose, after assembly, by applying pressure. Therefore, when in the field, the clips may be moved slightly by applying a pressure sideways to allow for the clips to be attached to the wire if there is an obstruction where the clip was originally

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inserted. This would not be possible with the McNeill hose where the clips are integral with the hose.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended the claims to further recite these distinguishing features. Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is not obvious in light of the cited reference. Applicant submits that there is no basis for modifying the McNeill reference to have separate or discrete clips that are subsequently assembled to the hose. This would be contrary to the teachings of McNeill as McNeill teaches a single integral hose and clip combination. There is no recognition that separate clips may be assembled at a factory to avoid labor in the field. Further, the clips are able to be moved sideways, if needed, which is not available in the McNeill patent. The intended function of McNeill would be destroyed if there were separate clips, as in the present claimed invention.

The prior art does not recognize a solution to the problem of assembling separate clips in the field and they result in extra labor. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claimed invention is non-obvious over the cited reference and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance thereof.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (612) 331-7415.

Respectfully submitted,

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MLM:das

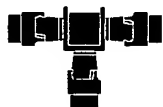
Hose Fittings & Accessories

Hose Fittings

Design Features

Hose Fittings – Loc-Eze®

- Easy to install
- Positive no leak fit
- Fitting grips tighter as tension increases
- Reusable and easy to remove



Tee

FTT13	13mm x 13mm x 13mm
FTT16	16mm x 16mm x 16mm
FTR1610	16mm x 16mm x 10mm



Elbow

FEE13	13mm x 13mm
FEE16	16mm x 16mm



Coupling

FCC13	13mm x 13mm
FCC15	15mm x 15mm
FCC16	16mm x 16mm
FCR1613	16mm x 13mm
FCR1615	16mm x 15mm



Hose End

FJA16	16mm without cap
FJJ16	16mm with cap



Male Adapter

FAM13	13mm x 1/2" mpt
FAM16	16mm x 1/2" mpt



Female Hose Swivel

FAS16	16mm x 3/4" fht swivel
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Swivel Tee

FTS13	13mm x 13mm x 3/4" fht swivel
FTS16	16mm x 16mm x 3/4" fht swivel



Locking Ring

Loc-Eze replacement rings for:
 FEP1847 16mm Loc-Eze fittings
 FEP1956 15mm Loc-Eze fittings
 FEP1844 13mm Loc-Eze fittings
 FEP1846 10mm Loc-Eze fittings



Oval Hose x Hose Loc-Eze

FCA0710	7mm barb x 10mm Loc-Eze
FCA0713	7mm barb x 13mm Loc-Eze
FCA0716	7mm barb x 16mm Loc-Eze

Please note:

16mm fittings use TORO AG hose part numbers 1634, 1642, 1645 or any PE hose with I.D. from .610-.630 and wall thickness of .34-.47

13mm fittings use TORO AG hose part numbers ELD1334 and ELD1327. Rings do not fit with 1350 hose or any PE hose with I.D. .504-.520 and wall thickness of .27-.35

TORO Ag

Agricultural Irrigation

Hose Fittings & Accessories

Hose Fittings – Barbed



Tee

FTT0400 4mm x 4mm x 4mm
FTT1500 15mm x 15mm x 15mm



Elbow

FEE0400 4mm x 4mm x 4mm
FEE1500 15mm x 15mm x 15mm



Coupling

FCC0400 4mm x 4mm
FCC1500 15mm x 15mm



Male Adapter

FAM1500 15mm x 1/2" MPT



Female Hose Swivel

FAS1500 15mm x 3/4" FHT



Swivel Tee

FTS1500 15mm x 15mm x
3/4" FHT swivel



Hose End

FJA1500 15mm without cap
FJJ1500 15mm with cap

Please note:

1500 series fittings for use with TORO AG hose part number 1554 or any P.E. hose with I.D. from .565-.580



Grommet Tee Adapter

These fittings are used to connect polyethylene hose to rigid PVC pipe in conjunction with a male adapter, i.e., FAM series.

FGR15 1/2" FPT
FGR20 3/4" FPT
FGR25 1" FPT

Oetiker Clamp

WFL0040 (198R)
WFL0042 (210R)
WFL0043 (256R)
WFL0044 (316R)
WFL0045 Pliers (1098)

Wedge Plug

Connector for PVC Pipe to Hose

FTC10 10mm
FTC13 13 mm
FTC16 16 mm

Hose Accessories



Rubber Grommet

FGP10 Used as a PVC takeoff with:
• FCA series adapters
• 7mm barb fittings
• 9/16" specially ground drill bit (FMD1916)



Hose Plug

FPG01 Used for closing emitter holes in polyethylene hose
FPG02 Double sided plug for closing holes in poly hose



Figure-8 End Clamp

FJQ13 for 13mm hose
FJQ16 for 16mm hose
FJQ20 for 20mm hose
FJQ26 for 26mm hose



H-Curl

Attaches polyethylene hose to vine or trellis wire in vineyards, orchards, and greenhouses.

For 16mm hose:

HC13-2.5 1/2" x 2 1/2" long
HC13-3.0 1/2" x 3" long
HC13-3.5 1/2" x 3 1/2" long
HC13-4.0 1/2" x 4" long

For 18mm hose:

HC16-3.0 5/8" x 3" long
HC16-4.0 5/8" x 4" long

TORO Ag

Agricultural Irrigation

El Cajon Manufacturing Plant
1588 N. Marshall Avenue
El Cajon, CA 92020-1523
Tel: 1-800-333-8125
Fax: 1-800-892-1822

Madera Manufacturing Plant
1850 W. Almond Avenue
Madera, CA 93637-5214
Tel: 1-800-472-3747
Fax: 1-559-674-5500